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BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 95-1127-C - ORDER NO. 95-1716 ✓

NOVEMBER 30, 1995

IN RE: Request from Interested Subscribers     ) ORDER  
      for Toll Free Calling Between the        ) DENYING  
      Communities of Yemassee, Walterboro     ) EAS REQUEST  
      and Beaufort.                             )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a request filed requesting toll free service, also known as Extended Area Service (EAS) between the Yemassee, Walterboro and Beaufort communities.

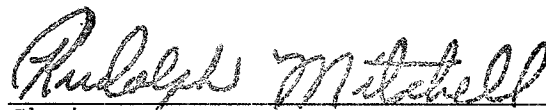
Upon receipt of the request for EAS, the Commission instructed the Commission Staff to require GTE South, Inc. and United Telephone Company of the Carolinas, Inc. to perform Community of Interest and Cost Studies. United Telephone of the Carolinas, Inc. duly filed the Community of Interest Study which revealed that the communities of interest between Beaufort, Yemassee and Walterboro are very small.

GTE South, Inc. filed its Community of Interest and Cost Studies for one-way, flat EAS from Yemassee to the Walterboro area and to the Beaufort area. According to GTE South, Inc., the result would be an addition to current rates in excess of 100%. The cost for residential service would move from the current rate of \$13.68 to \$30.15.

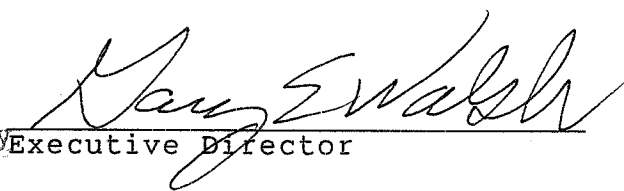
The Commission notes the small community of interest between the three communities as revealed by the United studies, and the high cost of the service as revealed by the GTE South studies. Based on these results, the Commission hereby denies the EAS request. However, the Commission would encourage GTE South, Inc. to implement options to expand local calling in the Yemassee exchange.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)